

INTELL. LIBRARY

SEGHILL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



# ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
AND THE  
Sanitary Inspector,  
FOR THE YEAR 1925.

---

BLYTH;  
Printed by R. Stebbings, Bridge Street.

1926.

**Vital Statistics.—Deaths.**—The total number of deaths during the year was 28 (10 males and 18 females). Being a death rate of 13·1 per 1,000 of the population, an increase on last year's low figure of 9·1. The death rate for previous years was : 1924, 9·1 ; 1923, 12·68 ; 1922, 13·7 ; 1921, 15·06.

**Infant Mortality.**—Under 1 year, 6 ; being a death rate of 136 per 1,000 births. This increase is due to 5 deaths of which the causes were Premature Birth or Congenital Debility, including premature triplets, one premature birth while the mother was suffering from Pneumonia, and one from a mother suffering from Tuberculosis. Thus leaving only one death from disease.

**Births.**—There were 44 Births notified during the year—13 males and 31 females. A birth rate of 20·5 per 1,000 (1925). Previous years' birth rate : 1924, 26·48 ; 1921, 29 per 1,000.

**Analysis of Deaths.**—Measles, 1 ; Tuberculosis Respiratory, 2 ; Cancer, 3 females and 1 male ; Diabetes, 1 ; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 1 ; Heart Disease, 2 ; Arterio Sclerosis, 2 ; Bronchitis, 1 ; Pneumonia, 2 ; Duodenal Ulcer, 1 ; Appendicitis, 1 ; Acute and Chronic Nephritis, 1 ; Violence and Accident, 1 ; other defined diseases, 3.

Amount of Poor Law Relief paid in Seghill by the Tynemouth Board of Guardians was £218 2s. 0d.

Hospitals and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are used principally for cases of urgent necessity (injuries and disease).

## **General Provision of Health Services in the area.**

Hospitals provided or subsidised by local Authority or County Council.

*Tuberculosis.*—County Sanatoria.

*Maternity.*—(Charity).—Princess Mary Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

*Children.*—Fleming Memorial Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne (maintained by public subscription and miners' levy).

*Fever and Smallpox.*—Local Authority.

**Ambulance Facilities.**—*Infectious Cases.*—A motor ambulance, obtainable by telephone message, is kept at the Infectious Hospital. *Non-infectious and Accident Cases.*—A horse ambulance (at present) which is kept at the colliery and supported by the Coal Company and the workmen.

**Clinics and Treatment Centres.**—*Maternity.*—Princess Mary Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne (maintained by public subscription). *Child Welfare.*—Seaton Delaval and Seghill are combined for child welfare purposes. No treatment is given. No Day Nurseries or School Clinics. *Tuberculous Dispensary.*—At Blyth (five miles from Seghill). *Venereal Disease.*—Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

**Public Health Officers of Local Authority.**—Whole time Sanitary Inspector and Food Inspector. Part time Medical Officer of Health, and Health Visitor (County Council), shared with other districts. The Sanitary Inspector is qualified.

**Professional Nursing in the Home.**—*General Nursing.*—A District Nurse and a Private Nurse, who are employed by the people. There is no provision for nursing infectious disease in the home. The Local Authority take no part in nursing arrangements, except in a private capacity. Both nurses are C.M.B., and are not subsidised.

The Council arrange for Chemical work as it becomes necessary.

**Legislation in force.**—No Special Local Orders or Acts in force. The adopted Acts being the Public Health Act, 1890, parts I. and III., and the Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

**Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**—*Water Supply* from Newcastle Water Company, sufficient and of good quality. The majority of the houses are supplied by stand pipes, but the more recent houses have their own supply laid on. There is practically no risk of contamination, except when breakages occur and when water has to be stored in the houses.

**Streams.**—The Seaton Burn traverses the district from end to end, and the Council look with some alarm at the proposal to drain the outflow from contemplated sewage works in the adjacent district of Weetslade into the Burn. We already receive coal washing outflow from Cramlington area.



which leads to deposit in the Burn as it leaves this district, and a surface drain from Havelock Place, Backworth, which carries soap suds and household refuse water at the same end of the district.

**Drainage and Sewage.**—Water-borne sewage is dealt with in two septic tanks and contact beds. These, with the increase in housing, are inadequate to the needs of the district, and further steps will be necessary to deal with this matter.

It was hoped that by combining with adjacent areas, a main sewer might have been constructed to convey the sewage to the sea. Steps were inaugurated by the Seghill Council so convene a meeting of neighbouring Councils to discuss the scheme, which would be an improvement on any local scheme and economize in the end.

A considerable amount of refuse from the privy ashpits is carted into dumps and agricultural land. There are w.c.'s, privy ash closets, open ash pits. These latter will be done away with as the old property is rebuilt, and converted into privy ash closets.

**Scavenging.**—The contents of ash closets, &c., are carted to dumps and agricultural land. The system generally is efficacious.

(Sanitary Inspector's Report appended at the end of Report.)

**Smoke Abatement.**—Lodging houses, offensive trades, &c. These matters do not require note, as they do not exist in this district.

**Schools.**—The Seghill Council Schools are to be rebuilt and modernised. No action has been required in regard to the closure of schools.

## HOUSING.

**General Housing Conditions.**—It is impossible to estimate the housing requirements of the district which may become necessary. Extensive works are in progress to develop the colliery, and already a number of men have considerable distances to travel to work. They, of necessity, must add to congestion of neighbouring districts. The subsidising housing scheme has proved very satisfactory so far, and the erection of more houses is proceeding. There has been an increase of population, owing to erection of 90 houses during the past few years. They include four houses and shops combined, 40 Council houses, 44 subsidy dwellings and two small villas.

**Overcrowding** is extensive, the causes may be given as follows :—

- (a) Workmen engaged in reconstruction work, as lodgers ;
- (b) Marriage of son or daughter of the house who live in with their parents. Children arrive, and as there may be difficulty in getting a house, plus the cost of such rented houses during the depression in wages in the coal trade.

Action is taken as soon as the Authority becomes aware of the condition of affairs.

**Fitness of Houses.**—(i.) General Standard of Housing.—This matter is being dealt with by the Colliery Company, and partial reconstruction or complete demolition, with complete rebuilding is proceeding. The old houses being mostly small and low, with attic bedrooms ; thick stone walls of a porous nature having been used in the original construction, damp and lack of proper ventilation and lighting has been the order of things. Also owing to raising of the road surfaces the flooring became lower than the outside, thus adding to dampness in certain parts of the district. In these cases reconstruction has to be complete. Ventilation defects were increased by the sealing of windows with repeated coats of paint, and large furniture crowding the floor left little air space.

(ii.) Action in the form of reconstruction is proceeding as mentioned above.

(iii.) Water supply, closet accommodation, and refuse disposal are quite adequate.

(iv.) Unhealthy areas from a morbidity point of view do not exist. It is not observed that any one part of the district is worse than another. There is even less sickness in some of the places of worst appearance.

(v.) There are no lodging houses, tents, vans, or shelters used as dwellings in the area.

(vi.) Action taken by the Authority to provide proper use of household fittings,, such as sinks, w.c.'s, and disposal of household refuse as far as possible by burning has been taken from time to time in the form of handbills posted on the ashpits and closets, and distributed to the householders for their information and necessary action.

**Inspection and Supervision of Food.**—(a) **Milk Supply.**—Generally good. Some samples barely come up to standard requirements.

- (i.) We have had no tuberculous milk or cattle.
  - (ii.) Number of Licences granted for sale of milk, 6.
  - (iii.) No refusal or revocation of Registration of Retailers.
  - (iv.) No bacteriological examination of samples of graded or other milk.
- (b) **Meat.**—(i.) Inspection at time of slaughter under Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924. No condemned meat.
- (ii.) Shops, stores, and vehicles are administered under the Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924.
- (iii.) Public slaughter houses are inspected frequently. Number of private slaughter houses in use on the date mentioned, registered and licensed : 1920, 1 ; January, 1925, 3 ; December, 1925, 3.

There are no bakehouses in the area.

No cases of food poisoning have occurred in the area.

**Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases (General).**—During the period under review from 1920, we have had very little infectious disease of a notifiable type. Diphtheria has shewn a marked decrease. There have been no fatal cases of Diphtheria since 1920, or fatal cases of Scarlet Fever during the same period. Pneumonia, during Influenza and Meazles outbreaks, has been very prevalent. No Malaria or Dysentery cases have been notified. No Trench Fever. Pathological and Bacteriological specimens, with the exception of Sputum, have not been examined. They can be dealt with at the Laboratory of the School of Medicine at Newcastle-on-Tyne. I, personally, examine swabs from my own cases. There has been no reason to suspect carrier cases. There is usually very little delay in a district like this in dealing with infectious cases. The parents sending for the doctor frequently before any rash appears, except possibly in Smallpox, when the disease is thought to be Chickenpox by the “old lady.” The patient is removed within a few hours to an infectious hospital, and the house and bedding disinfected.

In a slight outbreak of Smallpox in January, 1925, all contacts were vaccinated or revaccinated. All vaccinated by the Public Vaccinator, and, with the exception of the contacts, at their own request.



**Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.**—Measles recur each year and sporadic cases appear from time to time, frequently as one or two cases. I suspect these derive infection from surrounding districts or visitors. One case in particular came from a district some miles away, and was evidently in an infectious state when she arrived here. This case was fatal. Some of them get out too soon after the rash has disappeared.

Influenza is not yet realised to be infectious by the general public in this area, it is taken as a matter of routine. The patients are visited by their friends and the disease spread in this manner. The mortality is usually due to Pulmonary complications and has not been alarming. Patients are warned of their infectivity. Cancer of the digestive tract is fairly frequent, especially stomach and intestines.

We have had no Anthrax or Rabies.

### Notifiable Disease, other than Tuberculosis.

Disease.			Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	...	...	5	5	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	0	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0	0
Enteric (including Paratyphoid)			0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	...	...	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	15	0	0

Other Diseases generally notifiable, Erysipelas 1.

No Diseases locally notifiable.

Four of the Smallpox cases occurred in January. The children were unvaccinated, the adults mostly vaccinated in infancy. One of the unvaccinated children had a pock on the eye, which resulted in permanent interference with vision in the affected eye. Quarantine was strictly enforced, and vaccination, and revaccination of all known contacts was carried out, and the disease ceased.

### Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
14 months, 1 F.					
24 years, 1 M.	1	1			2

No action has been necessary under the Public Health Act Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations. 1925.

No action has been necessary under Public Health Act, 1925, section 62, Maternity and Child Welfare.

N.B.—Sections 1 and 2 do not apply in this area.

One case of Puerperal Fever has been notified during the past five years, without doubt caused by bowel infection. No cases during 1925.

*Measles*.—Many cases occurred. Mortality 1.

*Whooping Cough* was prevalent during the latter months of 1925. Mortality none.

*Poliomyelitis*.—One case in five years. Mortality none.

I am, Your obedient servant,

PERCIVAL HENDERSON,

M.D., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Ed., Etc.,

Medical Officer of Health

Seghill Urban District Council.



# SEGHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

## Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1925.

---

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Seghill Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

*Adopted Acts :* Public Health Act A.A., 1890, Parts I. and III. ;  
Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

### **Housing.**

Good progress was made in the Urban Area during the year. Buildings ordinary : four business premises were erected. Houses erected under the 1923 Housing Act : 8 parlour type and 16 non-parlour type. These 24 all qualify for the subsidy.

Sixteen more houses are in course of erection which, when completed, will also qualify for the subsidy.

Seghill Colliery Ltd. have reconstructed 12 houses at Chapel Row. These are a decided improvement, better bedroom accommodation is provided and the living room is much more habitable. There is still a great deal more to be done to improve the existing colliery houses, but the Company have made commendable progress during the past two years.

### **Slaughter Houses.**

There are three slaughter houses in the district, one Co-operative and two privately owned. They are each of modern construction, being sufficiently ventilated, lighted, cubic air space, and a good constant supply of water.

## **Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops.**

There are six milk sellers registered, as in the previous year. Three of these have their premises within the district—a Co-operative farm, and two cowkeepers—they each retail their own produce; the others, two of whom buy wholesale, and a farmer, who produces his own, retail within the district. Only one milk seller uses an hygienic type of bottle with a close fitting cap. The delivery of milk by this method is a great advance upon the old system, and it would confer a benefit upon the public if the method was more generally adopted. No certified or graded milk, as provided by the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922, is sold within the district.

## **Water Supply.**

The whole of the district is served with a good water supply. It is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company by meter, and it is pleasing to record that, despite the very dry weather during the early part of the summer, the supply was well maintained.

## **Scavenging.**

All the scavenging in the area is done by contract, and the work has been carried out quite satisfactorily.

## **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

There are two sewage disposal plants in the district, and the lower one is not satisfactory. The question of enlarging the works to cope with the extra sewage has been occupying the minds of the Council for some time. The manholes in the main sewer have been periodically examined. The main is kept efficiently cleansed through the automatic flushing.

## **Disinfection.**

Several houses were disinfected after the patients were removed to hospital. Smallpox making its appearance in the early part of the year, prompt precautions were necessary and were taken. After the infected persons were removed, the houses were temporarily vacated. The families removed to other premises. The houses were thoroughly fumigated after stripping walls, and the bedding was treated at the steam disinfecter.

## **The Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924.**

These Regulations having come into force on the 1st April, 1925, enabled the Local Authority to have a more direct control over the slaughtering and inspection of animals. Each slaughterman was supplied with a copy of the Regulations, and all possible advice given, so that the Order could be carried out with real effect. I am pleased to state that the butchers were quite willing to assist in the carrying out of the Regulations. Notifications of slaughter of pigs by cottagers, intended for sale, were also given by these people, and I inspected all carcasses slaughtered outside the licensed premises. Very little disease was found during my inspection of the various carcasses. Only one case of Tuberculosis, localised, and this being slight, it was only necessary to condemn the lungs and the laryngeal muscles. Several livers were surrendered and destroyed owing to liver rot (Distomatosis). These, however, had no effect on the carcasses.

### **Factories and Workshops.**

There is one factory and two workshops in the district. The factory is of recent construction, and sanitary accommodation for both sexes is provided; the premises are well kept. The workshops are occupied by a cartwright and a general smith, and during my inspections I have always found the places satisfactory.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN DILKS, C.R.S.I.



Sanitary Officer's Order, 1910, Art. xx (16).

Name of District:  
Seghill U.D. Council.

Population: 2,080.

Name of Inspector:  
JOHN DILKS,  
C.R.San.I.

[illegible]

# HOUSING (Inspection of District) REGULATIONS, 1910.

Seghill U.D. Council.

Seghill U.D. Council.		Total for whole District.	STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1923. Particulars for different parishes, wards or groups of parishes to be inserted in the vertical columns.					REMARKS.
Number of dwelling houses inspected		48						
" " found to be unfit		0						
Complaint that (a) by householders houses were unfit (b) by Parish Councils		2						
Closing (a) Number of representations to L.A. (b) Number of orders made		0						
Number of houses (a) after notice under voluntarily closed (b) without notice		12						
Number of (a) under demolition houses orders ... demolished (b) voluntarily by owners								
Number of (a) after informal notice (b) after service of notice under sec. 28, 1919 Act made fit (c) after closing order has been made for habitation (d) by Local Authority in default of owner		12						
General character of defects found		0	The chief	defects were	insufficient	height in	rooms.	
Housing Act 1890. (a) Number of representations of obstructive buildings (b) Number of such buildings demolished (c) Representations as to unhealthy areas (Parts I & II)		0						

The whole of Chapel Row has been rebuilt by the Colliery Company.  
The street is now considerably improved.

